

Councilwoman Cartright Helps Stony Brook Yacht Club with Shellfish Mariculture Program

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Farmingville, NY - Councilwoman Valerie M. Cartright joined members of the Stony Brook Yacht Club on Saturday, June 14th, to help reseed the harbor with shellfish. At the May 6th Town Board Meeting, Councilwoman Cartright sponsored a resolution, which passed unanimously, to provide the Stony Brook Yacht Club with seed clams and oysters for their Shellfish Mariculture Program.

The Councilwoman stepped into a seasoned pair of "waders", entered the water, and helped the other volunteers seed the bay by sifting through sand on floating wooden rafts, removing the mussels that grew on the raft and counting, measuring and transferring the hard-shelled clams that successfully survived the winter. Once transferred and buried, the seed will have a chance to mature, remaining continuously submerged and protected beneath the "predator cloth," a mesh that covers the rafts and repels creatures that would otherwise prey on the defenseless shellfish.

The Club also set up oyster cages that were provided by the Town of Brookhaven. Oysters and hard-shelled clams provide crucial environmental benefits by filtering nitrogen and other organic compounds from the water, increasing both clarity and overall quality. These shellfish, once matured, also provide shelter for other small organisms which entice larger fish to the area, promoting biodiversity in the harbor.

"It was a pleasure seeing members of the community working so hard to improve and heal the fragile ecosystem of the harbor," said Councilwoman Cartright. "I'm proud to have sponsored the resolution and look forward to witnessing many more projects from the Stony Brook Yacht Club."

"This program is instrumental in promoting environmental stewardship and for the yacht club to give back to the Town. It is important that residents and community members continue to learn about the maritime heritage of our region," commented Ed Zero, Mariculture Committee Member.

If you are interested in volunteering for similar programs, please email mariculture@stonybrookyachtclub.org.

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